

THE LIVING ROOM.

It May Be Commodious Even When the House Is Small—Its Furnishings.

Because the house to be built must be small and low priced, it does not follow that all the rooms need be small. If you will do without the time honored parlor and consent to make the hall a little smaller than is now customary, it is possible to have one room on the first floor that will offer many advantages



AN IDEAL LIVING ROOM.

over the usual arrangement. If in addition to its size you can add to one living room a generous fireplace, one or two bookshelves and perhaps a few drawers and a cupboard or two, in which to store the numerous articles needed in such a room, you have provided at least one place in the house that without much effort can be made home-like, livable in and valuable. Thus writes a correspondent of The Ladies' Home Journal, who also provides a sketch of an ideal living room. He says concerning it:

In the center of the east side is the fireplace, flanked on either side by oval windows. Common red bricks make a very good fireplace, both for use and to look at, or for a facing a few antique Dutch tiles in blue and white, which, with the brick lining and unglazed red tile hearth, make a charming effect.

If desired, an "inglenook" may be made of this side of the room, with box seats on each side of the fireplace. Such seats do not cost as much as furniture, and the space inside is very useful for storing the logs for the fireplace.

In the front side of the room may be a square bay window, that can have a seat or not, and the west side may be provided with little corner cupboards, stopping under the low ceiling, in which will be provided shelf and drawer room.

Asparagus Soup.

The following recipe is given in the New York Tribune: Asparagus makes the most delicious of all cream soups. Select the green, unbleached asparagus, even if the stalks are smaller. Half a bunch will make three pints of soup. Cut off the tips and lay them aside to be used as a garnish for the soup. Cut the remainder of the half bunch in small pieces and throw it in three pints of white stock. Add a sprig of thyme, a bay leaf, a spray of soup celery and 6 sprays of parsley, with 12 peppercorns. Let the soup cook for half an hour, then strain it through a puree sieve, pressing through all the asparagus that will pass through. Put the soup over the fire again, add a cup of rich milk or cream and let it boil up again. Add the asparagus tips, which have been cooked for ten minutes in salted boiling water and drained, and serve.

Selecting Wall Papers.

Before buying your wall papers study your rooms and know just what you require for best results. Yellow is the color for rooms that have no sunshine, particularly if they are living rooms. If you prefer a very light covering for the wall of a sunny room that will not "quarrel," select a cream or buff. Pale green is a good color and is also restful and cool. A light olive is an excellent medium color and combines well with white, old pink, reds and certain shades of blue and yellow. Well lighted rooms can have Indian or pompeian reds on their walls.

Tried and Found Good.

A writer in the New York Sun says: A "tried and found good" compound for destroying carpet bugs is made of one ounce of alum, one ounce of chloride of zinc and three ounces of salt. Mix with two ounces of water and let it stand overnight in a corked bottle, then pour it carefully into another vessel, add two quarts of water to it, and with an old whisk broom sprinkle until quite damp around the edges of the carpet for a quarter of a yard in depth from the wall. This will not injure the colors of the carpet.

Novel Way to Shell Peas.

A New York exchange tells that the chef in one of the large hotels has hit upon a novel method of shelling peas. He uses an ordinary clothes wringer, and the rapidity with which the work is done is surprising. The pods, as they go between the rollers, burst, passing through to the other side, leaving the peas behind. The first impression one gets is that the peas are likely to get bruised. Such, however, is not the case. As the pods stain the rollers, an old one should be used.

How to Wash Plants.

Take a handful of tobacco stems and steep them in pouring boiling water over them until the water looks like strong tea. When the water has become cool wipe off the leaves and stems with a sponge or soft cloth. Reduce the strength of the infusion with more water and thoroughly wet the earth around the roots. This will keep the plants healthy and remove all insects.

How to Take Fruit Spots Out of Cotton Goods.

Apply cold soap and then touch the spot with a hair pencil or feather dipped in chlorate of soda; then dip immediately in cold water.

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